

Message Text

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ORIGIN MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 NASA-01 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01

ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /047 R

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NASA - MR. SAKSS (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TSPA, AODE, NL, FR, GW

SUBJECT: MODE - NASA REQUEST TO ASSIGN 15 SHORT-TERM
EMPLOYEES IN EUROPE

REFS: STATE 200279 (NOTAL), HAGUE 4512 (NOTAL)

1. NASA HAS FILED AN URGENT REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO
ESTABLISH 15 SHORT-TERM POSITIONS IN EUROPE, BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 1, AS FOLLOWS:

-- ESTEC, NOORDWIJK, NETHERLANDS--TWELVE EXPERTS, OF WHOM
SEVEN WOULD BE ASSIGNED FOR SIX MONTHS OR LESS AND FIVE
WOULD BE ASSIGNED FOR ABOUT A YEAR;

-- ESTEC, NOORDWIJK--ONE SENIOR MANAGEMENT ADVISOR TO THE
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ESA SPACELAB PROJECT MANAGER (FOR ABOUT A YEAR);

-- AMEMBASSY PARIS--ONE SENIOR MANAGEMENT ADVISOR TO THE
ESA PROGRAM DIRECTOR IN PARIS (FOR ABOUT A YEAR); AND

-- AMCONSULATE, BREMEN--ONE SENIOR MANAGEMENT ADVISOR TO
THE ESA RESIDENT OFFICE AT ERNO (CONTRACTING PARTY TO ESA),
FOR ABOUT A YEAR.

2. REQUEST FOR SERVICES OF THESE PERSONNEL ORIGINATED WITH
EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA). WHILE THE POSITIONS WOULD BE
ESTABLISHED AS SHORT-TERM RATHER THAN PERMANENT, THE

EMPLOYEES WOULD COME WITHIN THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBIL-
ITY OF APPROPRIATE U.S. AMBASSADOR, PURSUANT TO SECTION
12, PL 93-475. ESA HAS BASIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAIN-
ING STATUS AND PRIVILEGES FOR THESE PERSONNEL FROM HOST
GOVERNMENTS SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS IN PARAGRAPH
FOUR BELOW.

3. TEXT OF AUGUST 13 LETTER CONTAINING NASA'S JUSTIFICA-
TION FOR REQUEST HAS BEEN PASSED TO NASA REPS MURPHY
(PARIS) AND HAMON (HAGUE). BELIEVE EARL BELLINGER AT BONN
ALSO HAS OR WILL RECEIVE A COPY. RELEVANT JOB DESCRIPT-
IONS HAVE ALSO BEEN RELAYED, VIA HAMON. THEREFORE, TRUST
THESE MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE TO OTHERS AT ADDRESSEE EMB-
ASSIES. NASA OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON HAVE STRESSED THAT
THE TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS BEING EXPERIENCED
BY ESA NECESSITATE DETAILING NASA EXPERTS TO TAKE CORR-
ECTIVE ACTION, SINCE DELAYS IN SPACELAB PROJECT COULD
COST USG ALONE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY;
COSTS TO EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS COULD BE EVEN HIGHER.
ASSIGNMENT OF NASA PERSONNEL WILL NOT RESULT IN INCREASED
COSTS TO THE USG. WHILE NASA WILL CONTINUE TO PAY THEIR
NORMAL SALARIES, ALL ADDITIONAL COSTS INCLUDING TRAVEL,
HOUSING, EDUCATION AND STANDARD POST ALLOWANCES WILL BE
REIMBURSED BY ESA. ONLY NORMAL PAYMASTER TYPE SERVICES
WILL BE ASKED OF THE POSTS.

4. NASA ALSO REQUESTS SPECIAL ATTENTION TO STATUS AND
PRIVILEGES FOR SENIOR ADVISORS PROPOSED FOR PARIS AND
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NOORDWIJK (SECOND AND THIRD ENTRIES IN PARA ONE ABOVE).
FOR THESE TWO OFFICERS, NASA MANAGEMENT WOULD LIKE TO
ENSURE THAT FULL AVAILABLE AND LEGITIMATE TAX REBATE
PRIVILEGES ARE ACCORDED FOR REASONS OF POSITION, AUTHOR-
ITY AND HOST GOVERNMENT REGARD, AS WELL AS FOR FINANCIAL
REASONS. THESE ADVISORS WILL OUTRANK, AND THEIR SPACE-
LAB PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES WILL EXCEED THOSE OF,
MURPHY AND HAMON RESPECTIVELY, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE TAX RE-

BATE STATUS. FOR THESE REASONS CHIEFS OF MISSION MAY PREFER THAT THESE TWO OFFICERS BE ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY STAFFS, IDENTIFIED TO HOST GOVERNMENTS, AND ACCORDED DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND PRIVILEGES. IF COMS RECOMMEND THIS, NASA HAS TWO VACANT MODE POSITIONS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE MODE OFFSETS. FOR THE HAGUE, BELIEVE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ASSOCIATED WITH SENIOR POSITION AT ESTEC JUSTIFY STRONG APPROACH TO ASSURE TAX EXEMPT STATUS, DESPITE POSTURE DUTCH ADOPTED LAST FEBRUARY (HAGUE 0993) REGARDING POSITIONS OF FAR LESS RESPONSIBILITY AND SIGNIFICANCE FOR SPACELAB PROJECT, IN WHICH DUTCH AS PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT HAVE A PROPORTIONATE STAKE.

5. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PARA 4 OF HAGUE 4512 THAT THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT CANNOT SAFELY ARRANGE APO AND COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES FOR THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL NASA EMPLOYEES BEING DETAILED TO ESTEC. NO COMMITMENTS TO THE CONTRARY HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE MADE HERE. FYI. ESA HAS REQUESTED AND HAS BEEN INFORMALLY ADVISED BY GOEDHART OF DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT NASA PERSONNEL WILL BE ACCORDED SAME STATUS IN HOLLAND AS NON-DUTCH ESA EMPLOYEES ENJOY. END FYI.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS BY ACTION ADDRESSEES REGARDING NASA REQUEST, INCLUDING EXPECTED IMPACT ON MISSION ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES. PARIS AND THE HAGUE PLEASE ADDRESS ISSUE OF STATUS AND PRIVILEGES RAISED IN PARAGRAPH FOUR ABOVE. EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE WILL BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE212544
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGMAYS, JR.
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760326-0930
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760815/aaaaamvv.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN MMO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 200279
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MODE - NASA REQUEST TO ASSIGN 15 SHORT-TERM EMPLOYEESIN EUROPE
TAGS: TSPA, AODE, NL, FR, GE, NASA
To: THE HAGUE PARIS BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006